POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

CHAPTER 4 - Section 2 - Part a

The Shawnees were the Indians who caused the settlers in the Greenbrier Valley the most trouble. There was hardly a time when a Greenbrier Valley man would not shoot a Shawnee on sight and they were a most bloody nuisance when our ancestors were trying to raise a patch of corn on the rich lands here in the old days. The fact that the Shawnees were in the east and the west too is due to the fact that they were split into two tribes. The tribe that lived east of the mountains in the Tennessee country was forced north by their enemies and they were sometimes after that found with towns at Winchester, in the Valley of Virginia and different places in Pennslyvania. This eastern tribe in moving to and from the settlements at Winchester and eastern Pennsylvania had to traverse West Virginia. They would have to cross Seneca Trail or Warrior's Road which runs through Pocahontas County, and the military town of the Iroquois at Mingo Flats, Randolph County, lay in their line of travel and that is the occasion of the corrupting of that place and making the garrison traitor to the Five Nations.

The Senecas, the last tribe to join the Five Nations, was the highest type of Indians in this section of the country. When they joined the Five Nations, they refused to give up their arms and were made the police force of the Iroquoise

nations, and kept to themselves the department of war and foreign affairs. The part of this country which is now Pocahontas County was kept by the Senecas. They gave up cannibalism but clung to their military life. That is the reason that the great military road that ran through the county seventy miles was known as the Seneca Trail rather than the Iroquois road. This road was probably the most remarkable road in America at the earliest date that history records. It led from New York to Georgia and was about five hundred miles long. It passed through Elkins and turned there to follow up the Tygarts Valley, crossing over the waters of Elk River at Mingo, over Elk Mountain at Edray, down Indian Draft and through Marlinton, winding to the west of Hillsboro, and coming along Droop Mountain to cross the Greenbrier River near the county line between Greenbrier and Pocahontas. It was so important a highway that in the French and Indian wars, the first activity west of the main Allegheny was to establish a garrison of soldiers ar Marlin Bottom, now Marlinton, to watch that road, not against the Five Nations, but against the Shawnees and other allies of the French.

Flint is very plentiful in Pocahomtas County. It is likely that the northwest Indians from as far north as Ohio and Marshall Counties found it convenient to send their young men to this county to get flint. On Stamping Creek, near Mill Point, on the farm of Tom Beard and about one-half mile back of his residence, is a fine blue grass pasture. Here there are several hundred of the pits. Here also was Pocahontas County's oldest industry. The red men came

from the far counties with their spades made from the antlers of deer, elk and moose, staked their claims, worked them and carried back to the flint workers the precious nodules secured by the expedition. It seems remarkable that Indians would travel two hundred miles for flint when they were within two thousand feet of it at home. But this is explained by the fact that it was two thousand feet straight down in the ground, and that they had to follow the streams on the surface of the earth until they found a place where it was within digging distance. To see the flint pit of Pocahontas, get permission from Tom Beard, go in the Stamping Creek gateway road, circle the high grassy knoll and there you are. It is a beautiful place and the workings are well defined and easily identified. Flint was invaluable to the Indians. They had no iron. To get edged tools that could be used as knives, as weapons, and as augers, it was necessary to get flint, and if he lived far away then expeditions had to be made to go after it or it would have to come to the tribe in the course of trade. The Indians were not afflicted with hair on the face as are the palefaces, yet without flint they would have presented a hairy appearance. They not only shaved their faces with it but also the skull, leaving a scalp lock for the benefit of anyone who would take it. The gimlet was a common instrument from flint. The handles were wood attached to the flint blades by rawhide put on wet and which bound it like iron when it had dried. Historians agree that bone was used for the shaping of arrow heads and knives and other manufactured articles. They had another set of tools called axes and these were used to reduce

the flint to fragments. These axes or tomahawks as they are often called were made from greenstone or diorite, an igneous rock formed by great heat. The edges were formed by grinding and were very hard.

From all that remains of the former presence of Indians in our region, they never occupied it as a place of fixed permanent habitation, but for temporary resort in late Spring, Summer, and early Autumn. The existing traces of Indian occupancy all indicate such to have been a fact. At Clover Lick, Marlinton, and on the Old Field Fork of Elk are found most that remains now indicating Indian temporary occupancy. The most interesting trace of the kind in question is found in a meadow near Gibsons on the Old Field Fork of Elk River twelve miles from Marlinton. This meadow was cleared about 1860 by William Gibson, and takes the place of one of the thickest patches of laurel and alder brush that the late William Gibson had ever worked at in all his life. After it was cleared and put in meadow, a circle appeared about 132 feet in diameter, formed of a strange grass that grows, or has not been seen any place else. Mr. Gibson said that he had seen similar grass in in Indiana. The circle is formed of two figures representing rattlesnakes in the act of mutually swallowing each other. One figure-the yellow rattler-symbolizes light. The black rattler typifies darkness; both combined represent the succession night and day, and illustrates the Indian idea of time. Here the hunters would assemble to invoke the favor of that mighty mysterious deity, upon whom the contemplated pursuit of game

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so essential to their subsistance and of that their squaws and papooses, depended. Or if about to go on the war path, the braves would rally here as a rendevous, and with their dark and bloody rites and ceremonial dances performed within or around this circle would seek to placate the same mysterious power for success over their enemies in the pending battles. There was quite a contrast between the aims and purposes of the Indians and pioneers, especially the Shawnees. With them mere subsistence in the easiest way was the paramount question at issue, and for such a purpose no region surpassed this for their uses. The county abounded in all kinds of wild game and the streams were alive with fish. My father was a small boy about six years old at the outbreak of the Civil War. He lived at the old Inn at Travelers Repose at the head of the Greenbrier River. I have heard him tell many times of going out before breakfast and catching a bushel of mountain trout.

None of the 110 Colonial Indian Forts authorized by the Assembly- 1750-1770 - were in Pocahontas County. The reason for that being that it was on Western waters. But there was a fort called Ft. Greenbrier located at Marlinton, with a garrison of about 200 men about 1754. There were three Indian garrison towns in Pocahontas County; one at Jim Gibson's on Elk, one at Marlinton, but I have not been able to locate the other one, it was somewhere in the lower end or the County.

The Indians used very few cooking utensils while on these expeditions. Their game was roasted over the fire on

sticks or poles in very much the same way that we barbacue our meats today.

Mr. Calvin Price, Editor of the Pocahontas Times, showed me his collection of Indian relics today. He told me that he had about twenty thousand of them but for me to say about twelve thousand. He has them packed in barrels, draweers and every imaginable place. And, of course, he has several hundred of them on display in the Times Office where visitors may see them. Most of these were found around Marlinton but he has some from all over the county. It would be impossible for me to catalogue all of them. Some of these relics are very beautiful and show great skill in workmanship. Among the things he has are hundreds of arrow heads, a flint shovel found near the Court House in Marlinton, a flint axe found at Lobelia, a pipe found at the Hamilton Field Addition to Marlinton, a greenstone axe found near John McNeels in the Little Levels. To me the most interesting of all the relics that I saw was a pipe, not unlike the pipes today, except it did not have the long stem. It looked as if it might have been polished and on one side were nine small straight marks, three in a group and three groups of them. There was another pipe found near Arborvale. Then there was a twenty inch pestle found in Marlinton, and these the Indians used to pound out their grains. It is almost impossible to describe this collection of relics but for anyone interested in Indian relics, it would be well worth their time, when in Pocahontas County to go to the Times Office and have a look at this collection and Mr.

Price is always most kind about showing and explaining about them. The late Andrew Price in some of his writings for the W. Va. Historical Society said that he had picked up as many as fifty arrow heads while plowing his garden. His garden lies along the Seneca Trail or Warriors Road as the Indians called it.

MATERIAL FROM:

Articles written by the late Andrew Price, Pres. of the West Va. Historical Society and published in the West Va. Legislative Hand book for 1926 and 1928.

History of Pocahontas Co. by Dr. Wm. T. Price

Withers Chronicles of Border Warfare.

Information from Calvin Price, Editor of Pocahontas Times.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

CHAPTER 4 - Section 1

I have been unable to find any evidence or facts to show that there were any people in this county previous to the Indians. Mr. Douglas McNeill, Principal of the Marlinton High School, tells me that he has spent a great deal of time and study on this question and he thinks it quite unlikely that there were any Mound Builders here except on hunting expeditions, as they were agriculturists and this county at that time was not suited to their pursuits. However, Mr. McNeill says he knows of two mounds in this county but he could not say for sure whether they were built by the Mound Builders or the Indians. One of these mounds is on the Kee farm about a mile from Marlinton, and the other is on his farm about two miles from Buckeye. They one on his farm he excavated last summer. They found no sign that it had ever been used as a burial ground, but they did find some ancient money. This money may have been used by the Mound Builders or it may have have been Indian money. This he has never been able to find out about.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY Graf 4

Lillian W. Belcher

ABORIGINAL REMAINS IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Pocahontas County has the distinction of having the greatest elevation of any county in the state, and give rise to more streams than any other. The headwaters of the Greenbrier, the Elk, Cheat, Williams river, Cranberry, Gauley, and several others of less importance. Its forests of pine and hard woods are the finest in the state.

Marlinton, the county seat, is situated at the junction of Knapps Creek with the Greenbrier river from the east, and Stony Creek from the west. The Indian Draft is an offshoot of Stony Creek Valley, and an old Indian trail leads up this "draft" four miles to the foot of Elk Mountain and across Elk mountain to the head of the Crooked Fork of Elk river. The valley of Knapps Creek was followed to the junction with Douthards Creek fourteen miles to the crossing of the main Alleghany range to the waters of Jacksons river in Bath county, Virginia. All these are today main highways of travel, and within historical times armed bands of marauding Indians from the Ohio country have been pursued by the avenging pioneers of the Valley and Augusta, Virginia. The other great highway for the aboriginies in crossing to the Ohio from what now constitutes the state of Virginia, was to follow the valleys of the new and Kanawha rivers, about seventy miles to the south.

At Marlinton there are numerous evidences of long occupancy. Within a few hundred yards of the courthouse there is a mound of considerable dimensions, although about obliterated by the plow. Within the memory of persons now living it was about ten feet in height. Another mound of earth and stone is situated in the bottom lands near the river, and near the residence of Mr. C. W. Price. From this mound were removed within the past year (1911) the remains of at least seven adult skeletons. These had been buried in a manner that indicated that all the bodies had been thrown together and earth heaped on them, or else at some time the skeletons had been disturbed, except on the surface by the erosive effect of the cultivation of the soil in the surrounding fields, and the skeletons were discovered

in an accidental manner by workman laying a water main. Some of the bones thrown out at that time I have in my possession, and indicate adult moles in the prime of life. Early tradition has it that a battle was fought at this point between the Indians and that the dead were buried in this mound. It may be that the bones were disturbed in the mound at an early date in the settlement of the country by the whites, and the tradition grew out of the fact that so many skeletons were found together in one burial place.

A large mound four miles below Marlinton on the top of a high hill, in the primeval forest, has never been disturbed except for a hole sunk from the top about six feet to the level of the surrounding earth, at which depth a thick layer of ashes was found. A very large oak growing on this mound was uprooted many years ago, and tore away a part of one side. This mound is composed of earth and stones, all of the stones having been conveyed a distance of several hundred feet, as there is none in the immediate vicinity of the mound. There is probably thirty or forty tons of loose rock in this mound. It is near the mouth of Swago Creek and many relics and other signs of occupancy have been noted in the fields near this mound and in the region surrounding.

At Clover Lick, on the Warwick estate, there are several mounds of the usual form and size. These are at the mouth of Clover Creek, and was a famous resort for Indians, a trail leading from Clover Creek valley through the Rider Gap and Big Spring Gap to the waters of Old Field Fork and Big Spring Fork of Elk river, respectively. One of these mounds was opened about one hundred (129 yrs) years ago - (1911 - 1940?) by the late Jacob Warwick, a first settler, an Indian fighter who was at the battle of Point Pleasant, 1774, a veteran of the Revolution. The well preserved bones of an adult were found in a setting posture face to the west, and several articles of stone and metal. The whole was left undisturbed, and the burial place left as it was found. Succeeding years and a century's or more cultivation of the soil have about obliterated these mounds. Many relics have been found in the fields surrounding these mounds.

A small mound of earth and stone at the mouth of Locust Creek was visited by the writer a few weeks ago. A short time before a skeleton had been discovered in this mound but no other relics. There are a few mounds in the vicinity of Dunmore and Greenback in the upper part of Pocahontas County.

There is no evidence that the Indians traveled far into what was a dense forest back from the Greenbrier river and its branches and tributaries. In fact in the fields that have in late years been cleared and cultivated on the uplands and higher mountains only rarely are the arrow points discovered, such as might have been lost in the chase, while nearly every field on the low lands is thickly strewn with these evidences of early occupancy, and at some of the Camp sites mentioned thousands of arrow points and other relics have been worked. One on the headwaters of Stony Creek, another on Stamping Creek. In the vicinity of both of these beds there is evindence of camp sites, and stone relics are numerous. The public road leading to the head of Stony Creek cuts through a mound about one hundred yards from the ledge of flint, on the lands of James Sharp.

On the Crooked Fork of Elk river on the lands of Robert Gibson there is an "Indian ring", about 300 feet in diameter, formed a growth of a sort of wire grass. This phenomenon is well marked and appears whenever the field is in grass, for more than fifty years since the spot was cleared of a dense growth of timber and laurel.

From - The Pocahontas Times

Marlinton, W. Va. January 11, 1912

Lillian Belcher

Pocahontas County

An Ancient Letter

In 1766 Andrew Stitlington was living in what is now Pocahontas County. He married Elizabeth Warwick, and was the dep-father of Major Jacob Warwick. He was probably living at the place where Marlinton is located at the time this letter was written. It was written to John Stillington, in Ireland, and he afterwards came here and is the anfestor of the Stillington family. Andrew Stillington though twice married left no descendants.

Green Briar, September 25th, 1766

Dear Brother:

This comes to let you know that I am in good health a present bless'd be God for it hoping these will find you and your family in the same condition; for tho' we have been long absent from each other, yet neither time nor distance of place can remove the brotherly affection I have for you. As for my situation in this Countyt, I live on a branch of the Mississippi Waters, which in very fertile land but is not yet purchased from the Indians. I enjoy a reasonable living but have been long in a dangerous situation from the incersions of the savages; yet though the protection of God have hitherto escapte, and had I the Comfort of you to converse with should think myself happy.

But I dare not advise to come to this country. Yet were I in Ireland and had such a family as you have and could free it in no other way, I would bind myself and them before I would stay to be so oppressed, but you have no occasion, for if you are unable to pay your passage, come upon redemption to Pennsylvania and Brothr William will soon release you, and as soon as I have opportunity I will repay it him.

I had the comfort of hearing of your welfare by Brother William which gave me great satisfaction, and likewise I heard of Brother Thomas.

I have no child which makes me more desirous to have you near. My wife joins in our love to you and family and Sister Elizabeth and her family and to all old freinds, which is allfrom your affectionate and loving brother till Death.

Andrew Stillington.

From the Pocahontas Times, Marlinton, W.Va. June 19, 1913

Lillian Belcher

From The Pocahontas Times---September 29, 1927

Dear Mr. Andrew Price:

As to the killing of Baker by the Indians at Marlinton, I have several times been told by Captain Joel Hill, who was a son of Richard Hill. He said it was on a Sabboth morning and Richard Hill and Baker started to the river to take a swim. Hill was in front of Baker. When Mr. Hill came to the fence, he put one hand on the fence and jumped over. When Mr. Baker put his hand on the fence, the Indian shot him through the breast. The Indian then threw his hatchet at Hill and missed his head. Hill leaped back over the fence. Baker sank down in a fence corner and asked Hill not to leave him. Hill ran to the house and went to get his gun. The women had been cleaning up and had moved the guns from the place they were usually kept, and he could not find his gun.

A small boy by the name of Slater had a gun in his hands. This Mr. Hill tried to take it from him. Slater had some sort of a hypnotic fit and held on to the gun while Hill swung him about over the floor, for sometime before he could wrench the gun from Slater.

But in the meantime the Indian had prized up the corner of the fence, dulled a buckskin string around Baker's neck, dragged him under the fence and scalped him. Hill said if he could have found his gun he might have shot the Indian; at least have kept Baker from being scalped. Mr. Hill said the Indian had hidden under the bank of the river behind a clump of Greenbriers.

M. R. Dunlap
Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Although arrow heads and other relics are quite profusely scattered up and down these valleys there is hardly a trace of any Red-Man ever having ventured into the dense mountain country.

Of the numerous camp sites used by the Indians the largest appears to have been on the site of Marlinton. The Indians, like the White Men who followed them, found living easiest on the broad flats at the mouths of streams. For this reason, nearly every camp site is now covered by, or is adjacent to one of our own towns or villages. Remains of another camp were found on Old Field Fork near the mouth of Cloverlick Creek. Nearby is the famous Magic Circle, which was discovered by William Gibson in 1860 after he had cleared a field of dense laurel and alder brush. When the field had been prepared for meadow a circle about 132 feet in diameter appeared, formed of grasses similar to some grown in the middle west but entirely foreign to this region. Authorities on Indian lore describe this circle as being the figures of two snakes in the act of swallowing each other. The yellow rattler depicts light, the black one represents darkness- their act reveals the Indian idea of the succession of night and day. This was probably the council circle of the tribe, evidence of whose camp has been found nearby.

In their travels into and through the county the Indians located trails which are followed, to a large degree, by our modern highway system. U. S. Route 219, the arterial highway connecting the heart of the county with the North and the South, generally follows the age-old

PAGE ____

STATE _____

MAP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING _____ DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE _____

NUMBER OF DRAFTSMEN:
DRAWING _____
LETTERING _____
MISC. DUTIES _____

REPORT BY _____

NAME OF MAP	PERCENT COMPLETE		GAIN	REMARKS
	FORMER REPORT DATE	PRESENT REPORT DATE		

A-1940

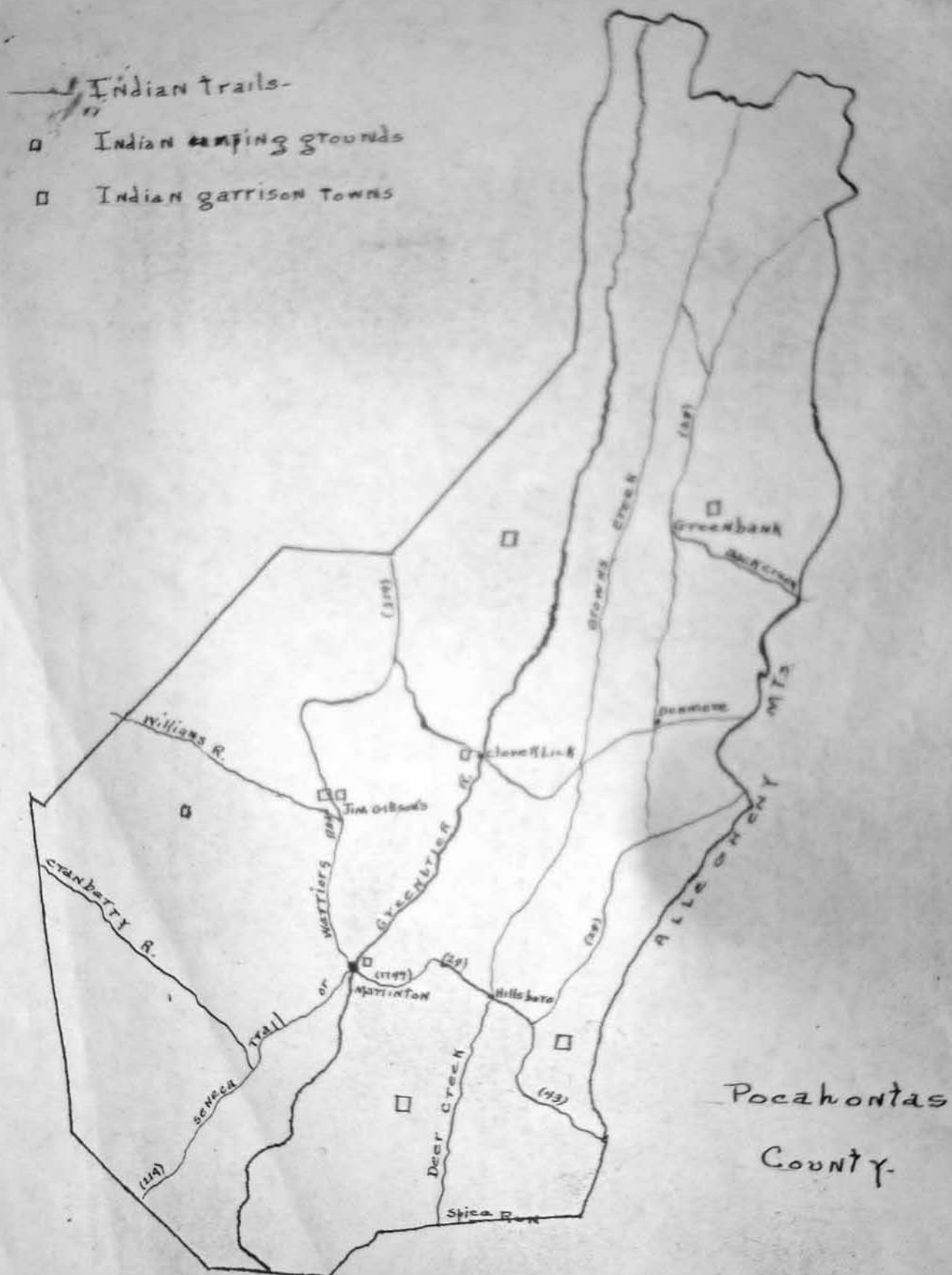
vailed at camp when one shot and one cry rang out. The Indians soon scattered.

At another time a band of Indians was seen passing through apparently doing no harm, but the settlers took no chances and fired on them, and in the scirmish one of the warriors was wounded; The Indian was taken to a glade near Arborvale, and secreted until he was able to hear from the Ohio towns. Thus the name Hospital Run.

Some months afterward, Thomas Galford and Samuel Gregory went to the Indian towns, in search of the child Elizabeth Galford who had been taken by the Indians. The two men lingered about town, trying to trade furs with the Indians, hoping in this way to get information about the girl. They finally gave up hope and stole a pair of fine horses, hitched them some distance from town, and went back to wait in ambush for the Indians. They killed two of the three Indians and took their ornaments, which were kept for many years. The bracelets were burned when Thomas Galford, Junior, lost his home. One of the horses was sold to John Bird, an ancestor of the Bird relationship, on upper Back creek. The other was bought by John Harness, a trader from Staunton.

The only instance I can find of the whites intermarrying with the Indians is that of Jim Bridger. He is claimed by some as a native of Pocahontas County. The name Bridger is familiar in this County. There is Bridger Gap where another James Bridger was killed by the Indians; Bridger Mountain at the head of Swago

Creek; and the Bridger Place at the tunnel above town are names that we all know. Anyway, it seems that Jim Bridger had two Indian wives, not at the same time, but he married one Indian woman and when she died , he married another. He died about 1877, aged seventy-seven years. He was a highly respected man and looked upon as one of the heroes of his time.


Indian trails
Indian camping grounds
Indian garrison towns
Greenbank
Dunmore
Clover Lick
Jim Gibson's
Williams R.
Cranberry R.
Greenbrier R.
Browns Creek
Allegheny Mts
Marlinton
Hillsboro
Deer Creek
Spica Run
Seneca Trail or Warriors Road
(219)
(29)
(43)
Pocahontas County

CHAPTER 4 - THE PEOPLE

Tantalizing bits of evidence found throughout Pocahontas County hint the presence of man in the Greenbrier region long before the arrival of our pioneer forebears. Numerous conflicting legends have arisen, each with its own answer to the mystery of the identity of these first residents and their fate. The presence of several mounds in the county has led some investigators to believe that the ancient Mound Builders may have passed this way. One mound, on the farm of Douglas McNeill near Buckeye, yielded five sheets of mica similar to specimens found in authenticated Mound Builder structures. Such sheets are believed to have been used by the Mound Builders as money. However, there are several deposits of micaceous rock in Pocahontas and it is quite possible that Indian tribes also may have valued the peculiar substance.

The McNeill mound, like several others in the region, gives no evidence of excavation below the original ground level and contains a heap of ashes which might be the remains of cremated bodies. Another theory is that the mound may originally have been a sod hut which fell in upon the ashes of its fireplace. This idea is further substantiated by the discovery of deer shanks, such as might have been cast aside at some prehistoric banquet, and stone utensils in similar mounds.

A mound near the courthouse in Marlinton yielded the skeletons of seven adult males which were so piled together that it is believed either that they were hastily buried by a victorious enemy after a battle or that the mound was disturbed by some early investigator.

One of several mounds on the Warwick estate at Clover Lick revealed the

skeleton of an adult male sitting upright, facing west. The Warwick group is generally accepted as an Indian burial ground attached to a village, relics of which are scattered about profusely.

That fairly large villages existed in the county at Marlinton and on Old Field Fork as well as at Clover Lick is certain. The largest was at Marlinton, judging by the number of arrowheads, pipes, pestles, tomahawks, and other instruments of the Stone Age which still are found in the vicinity. Perhaps the most notable remnant of Indian lore to be found in the county is the famous Magic Circle on the Gibson farm on Old Field Fork. The circle was discovered by William Gibson in 1860 after he had cleared a tract of dense laurel and alder brush. After the field had been prepared as meadow, a circle, formed of grasses native to the prairie states, about 132 feet in diameter, appeared. Authorities on Western Indian customs describe this circle as being composed of the figures of two snakes in the act of swallowing each other. The rattler formed by yellow grass depicts light, the black one represents darkness - their act portrays the Indian idea of the succession of night and day.

Although there is no definite proof that Pocahontas County ever was the permanent home of an Indian tribe, traditions persist that peaceful Huron tribes once lived in the area including Pocahontas and that, in 1670, they were driven out by marauding Mohawk warriors from New York, who, having scourged the country, withdrew and left it uninhabited. There is no record or evidence of prolonged residence from that time until the arrival of the White settlers in the 1750's.

The Shawnee Indians, together with a few Delaware and Mingo parties occupied the Greenbrier area each year from spring until late fall. During

this time they hunted and fished, preserving their catch by a combination smoking and drying process. Pocahontas was important as a source of their most priceless mineral -- flint. Miners traveled from Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania to dig for the precious flint nodules. On the farm of Tom Beard, on Stamping Creek near Millpoint, there are hundreds of pits where the Indians plied their crude spades of horn and bone.

The Indians, like those who supplanted them, found living easiest in the open valleys along the Greenbrier and other large streams. Only an occasional arrowhead, such as might have been lost in hunting, is found in the rugged, mountain areas.

In their travels into and through Pocahontas County the Red Men chose the easiest ways and pioneered trails which are followed to a large degree by the modern highway system. U. S. Route 219, the arterial highway connecting the heart of the county with the North and the South, generally follows the age-old Seneca Trail. This ancient thoroughfare, sometimes called the Warriors' Road, extended from New York to Georgia, a distance of more than 500 miles. Other Indian paths, following the valleys of the larger streams within the county, survive today in present state roads.

The red hunters felt secure in this land of abundant deer, elk, bear, and other game. Under the Albany Treaty of 1722 all the land "lying upon Western waters" - the area drained by tributaries of the Mississippi - was recognized as Indian territory. Colonists were forbidden to violate it. An occasional hunter found his way through the mountains and was received with due hospitality. However, settlers soon followed the trail of the adventurers, and the Indians, watching the growing stream of invaders pour into their

priceless hunting grounds, became increasingly alarmed. The French, intent upon dislodging the English foothold west of the mountains, fanned this unrest into bitter hatred. Having appealed to London without success, the Indians opened a brutal campaign to drive the trespassers from the country. These hostilities reached into Pocahontas in August, 1755, when just one month after Braddock's defeat, Indians appeared at the mouth of Knapp's Creek. After killing twelve persons they retired to the West taking eight prisoners with them. In their raids, the Indians seldom killed able-bodied women and children. Instead, such ones were usually taken to the permanent villages in Ohio and Pennsylvania where they shared the work of the Indian women. In several cases prisoners were taken to the French-Canadian settlements and sold as domestic slaves.

No further raids occurred until September of the following year when Indians invaded the Greenbrier territory for four days, killing twelve persons, wounding two, and taking thirty-five prisoners. A party of men from Rockbridge and Bath counties overtook the raiders on Marlin Run near the Greenbrier River. One of the captive women was carrying her infant and thus was slowing the invaders' retreat. In an effort to speed the escape, a warrior took the child from its mother and dashed it to death against a tree. Shortly after the band had crossed the river one of their horses shied and threw Joseph Mayse, then thirteen years old, into a patch of nettles. The Indians were so closely pressed by their pursuers that they did not stop to retrieve the boy. They fled up Stoney Creek and Indian Draft, quickly outdistancing the rescue party, who turned back and picked up young Mayse. Before returning home the men buried the murdered infant on the bank of the run, using their knives and

fingers to scoop out the shallow grave. The boy Joseph Mayse survived to fight at Point Pleasant and later served as a magistrate of the county for over forty years.

The Indian raiders continued to their village near Chilicothe, Ohio, where Mayse's mother, in company with the mother of the murdered infant and a Mrs. Sloan, escaped to Detroit. From there they made their way, by the direction of friendly Indians, to Pennsylvania and thence home after an absence of 15 months.

Little protection was afforded the Greenbrier settlers at this time because they were in forbidden territory. None of 110 forts authorized by the colonial government during the period 1750-70 were in this region. Fort Dinwiddie on the Jackson River was the nearest garrison of sufficient strength to withstand any strong attack. Col. Andrew Lewis, by convincing the authotities that the Greenbrier was a tributary of the James River, obtained permission to build a private stronghold, Fort Greenbrier, on the site of the present county court house in 1754. Unfortunately, Lewis, with his garrison of 200 men, joined Braddock's ill-fated campaign against the French and thus were absent at the time of the first Indian attack. Apparently the invaders avoided contact with the fort in their second campaign, for, though it was strongly garrisoned at that time, records indicate no organized resistance to the attack.

During the next few decades the settlers depended upon blockhouses of their own construction. In reality these were little more than sturdy cabins having very small windows or none at all. They were supplied with loopholes through which the settlers could fight off their attackers. Most prominent

among these pioneer havens were Fort Warwick on Deer Creek about four miles from Cass, Fort Buckley at Mill Point on the site of the Isaac McNeel home, also known as Fort Day and Fort Price, Fort Drennen (Drinnon) about 300 yards west of the Seneca Trail, one half-mile northwest of Edray, and Fort Cloverlick, situated on Cloverlick Creek about 300 yards from the C. P. Doer home near the north fork of the creek.

During the decade following the defeat of the French, the Indians gradually ceased their resistance to the white invaders and lived on quite peaceable terms with them. A thriving business in furs formed a bond of union between the Red Men and the traders who brought knives, axes, beads, cloth, powder, lead, and guns from the east on pack horses.

Such amicable relations were brought to an end, however, as the first rumblings of the Revolution became apparent. British agents worked to create troublesome incidents, and the forts gained new significance in the struggle against the Indians, who, incited and armed by the British, renewed their attacks upon the pioneer communities. The forts not only served as the headquarters of scouts guarding the settlements from surprise attacks, but they also were recruiting centers for the troops that fought at Point Pleasant and later against the English in the east.

The settlers became increasingly alarmed at the growing traffic in firearms which passed through their midst. Vigilantes took it upon themselves to waylay the persistent traders and destroy their goods. British attempts to prosecute the highwaymen resulted in mass jail deliveries, violent mob scenes, and general unrest among both the settlers and the Indians.

Peaceful Indians were attacked. Unexplained thefts or acts of violence

were laid at their door. Such an incident occurred in Pocahontas in 1780. Elizabeth Galford, fourteen-year-old daughter of Thomas Galford, disappeared while on an errand near her home. Although no Indians had been seen in the vicinity they were immediately suspected. Galford and Samuel Gregory went to the Indian towns in search of her. What Indian towns are referred to, and their location, is not known. Galford and Gregory loitered about the villages, trading furs with the Indians in the hope of finding some trace of the girl. Being unsuccessful, they stole two very fine horses which they had observed in the village and started homeward. Having traveled a short distance they hitched the horses, crept back along the path and ambushed three Indians who had taken their trail. Having killed two and put the others to flight, they took the bracelets and other ornaments from the bodies and continued to their homes. One of the horses was sold to John Bird of upper Back Creek; the other was purchased by John Harness of Staunton.

Shortly after this incident had occurred the Indians opened their last, but certainly most extensive, campaign against the Pocahontas settlements. Twenty-two warriors surprised Richard Hill and Henry Baker early one morning near the home of Lawrence Drinnon on the Greenbrier River about two miles above Marlinton. Hill had just crossed a fence on the way to the river where the men intended to take a short swim before breakfast. As Baker started to vault the fence an Indian concealed in the dense brush shot him through the breast. Another then threw his tomahawk at Hill, who dodged the missile, jumped back over the fence, and escaped to the Drinnon house. The Indians, fearing to cross the fence which was within easy rifle range of the house, pried up a rail of the fence, dragged the mortally wounded Baker through, and

scalped him.

Drinnon, fearing an attack, barricaded the house and sent a slave to the Little Levels for help. A party of about twenty men came from the settlement and remained overnight. Finding no enemy they buried Baker and started their return journey accompanied by all those who had taken refuge in the Drinnon home. When the company reached Millpoint there was some debate as to whether they should take the trail through the "Notch" on Auldridge mountain or travel a longer route safer from ambuscade. Two Bridger brothers and Nathan, a Negro boy belonging to Drinnon, left the others and ventured up the mountain trail. They had proceeded only a short distance when Indians hidden in the thickets beside the path shot and killed the two brothers. Nathan had dropped behind when he paused to tie his moccasin and so escaped.

The Indians next attacked the home of Hugh McIver, killing him and taking his wife prisoner. As they were leaving the house they met John Prior who, with his wife and infant, was enroute to the Great Kanawha Valley. A warrior shot Prior and, when he did not fall, grappled with him. Prior threw the Indian from him and walked away toward the settlement from which he had just come. It is thought that the attackers allowed him to escape in the hope that he would return with friends to rescue his family, thus affording an excellent opportunity for ambush. Prior staggered to the settlement, told his story, and died that evening. The fate of his wife and child has never been discovered.

A cabin on the site of Edray, occupied by the families of Thomas Drinnon and a Mr. Smith, was the next to be raided by the war party. Taking Mrs. Smith,

Mrs. Drinnon and her son, they turned toward their Ohio villages. On the way they met and killed an aged couple named Monday.

During the 1780's settlements became more thoroughly established in the valleys of both the Tygart and the Great Kanawha - the two principle routes into the Greenbrier region. Savage raiders never again penetrated these buffer settlements to prey upon the Pocahontas country. The frontier had crossed the Ohio.

Little more than thirty years before this final retreat of the Indians, the Pocahontas region had been first discovered by wandering hunters from the east. Countless legends are told concerning the identity of the "first" man to venture west of the mountains. As has been the case in the history of our whole continent, it is most probable that several adventurers had satisfied their curiosity regarding the unexplored mountains without bothering to preserve their findings or broadcast the secret of such rich hunting preserves. Jacob Marlin and Stephen Sewell "crossed the Allegheny range and followed a mountain stream through the pass north of Beaver Mountain to the mouth of Knapps Creek on the Greenbrier River," in 1749. Although the names of these two have long held an honored place as pioneers of the valley, they were certainly not undertaking a blind excursion. Knapps Creek was already known by that name, and early scribes agree that the pair were lured into the wilderness by glowing accounts of the richness and wild beauty of the new frontier. In making their home on the delta, thereafter called Marlin's Bottom, they did, however, take the first step in the settlement of the region.

Soon after their arrival they disagreed because of some difference in religious beliefs. Sewell removed into a hollow tree just across a small brook

from the cabin. In 1751, when John Lewis and his son, Andrew, entered the valley to survey for the newly formed Greenbrier Land Company, they found the pair still waging their lonely feud. Since neither Marlin nor Sewell had bothered to stake claims to the land the younger Lewis seized the opportunity to survey and obtain a grant in his own name for 480 acres, part of which is the present site of Marlinton. Sewell again moved, this time going to Stephen Hole Run where he later became the victim of an Indian attack. Marlin disappeared several years later.

Meamwhile Lieutenant Warwick, father of the prominent Jacob Warwick, had entered the Dunmore neighborhood and surveyed a large grant, part of which was in his own name. After a short stay on the property Lieutenant Warwick returned to his native England for a visit with relatives and was never heard from again. His wife, Elizabeth Dunlap Warwick, and their son, Jacob, remained at the homestead for several years. Mrs. Warwick later married a neighbor by the name of Sitlington.

The first man known to have established a permanent residence in the Little Levels was John McNeel, a native of Frederick County who had gone to the Cumberland Valley. While there, in 1765, he became involved in a fight and, believing that he had killed his opponent, fled into the mountains. Wandering south for several days he came into the Little Levels region, where he set about building a cabin. While hunting, one day, he came upon Charles and Jacob Kinnison, who had come from the Winchester settlement in search of a new home. He was relieved to learn from these men that his supposed victim was very much alive. After helping the Kinnisons locate their home sites just east of where Hillsboro now stands, McNeel accompanied them on their return to

the east where they all obtained supplies.

During this visit McNeel married Martha Davis, who had come from Wales with her parents a few years before. A story often told of Mrs. McNeel gives a vivid example of the hardihood of the pioneer women. During the time that her husband, together with the Kinnisons, was at Point Pleasant fighting Cornstalk's army, Mrs. McNeel bore a child which soon died. Having no one to aid her, she built a coffin, dug a grave, and buried the child unassisted.

At about the same time that McNeel and the Kinnisons were founding their homes in the Little Levels, John Warwick (no close relation to the Dunmore Warwicks) established a tomahawk right on Deer Creek a short distance east of the mouth of North Fork. Such an operation consisted of blazing trees along the boundaries of a projected land claim and the building of a residence of some sort on the property. He returned to Eastern Virginia where, with the aid of his sons, Andrew, John, Jr., and William, he organized a large group of settlers who followed him into the new territory.

The groups already mentioned were not alone in their pioneering of the new territory. Nearly every community that now exists in the county was being founded at this time. Since the middle of the century there had been an ever increasing stream of settlers moving into the valleys surrounding the Greenbrier. Some moved on to the west, while others, discouraged by ravages of Indians and the near-starvation life of the wilderness, retreated to the eastern settlements. Nevertheless, driven by hope of a new chance at life and escape from oppression at home, hardy newcomers continued to filter in.

Among the earliest of these adventurers was the step-father of Jacob Warwick, Mr. Sitlington. (His name was either Robert or Andrew; historians

contradict themselves and each other on this point.) A letter which he is said to have written to his brother, John, in Ireland, hints at the hardships which were to be endured and those from which the people sought to escape:

Green Briar, September 25, 1766

"Dear Brother:

This comes to let you know that I am in good health at present bless'd be God for it hoping these will find you and your family in the same condition; for tho' we have been long absent from each other, yet neither time nor distance of place can remove the brotherly affection I have for you. As for my situation in this county, I live on a branch of the Mississippi Waters, which is very fertile land but is not yet purchased from the Indians. I enjoy a reasonable living but have been long in a dangerous situation from the incersions of the savages; yet through the protection of God have hitherto escapte, and had I the Comfort of you to converse with should think myself happy.

But I dare not advise to come to this country. Yet were I in Ireland and had such a family as you have and could free it in no other way, I would bind myself and them before I would stay to be so oppressed, but you have no occasion, for if you are unable to pay your passage, com upon redemption to Pennsylvania and Brother William will soon release you, and as soon as I have opportunity I will repay it him.

I had the comfort of hearing of your welfare by Brother William which gave me great satisfaction, and likewise I heard of Brother Thomas.

I have no child which makes me more desirous to hav you near. My wife joins in our love to you and family and Sister Elizabeth and her family and to

all old friends, which is all from your affectionate and loving brother till Death."

The settlers in the Greenbrier territory prior to 1800 were almost exclusively of Scotch-Irish extraction. Their ancestors were a portion of the throngs who settled in Ireland following the defeat of O'Neil of Tyronne in 1611. Upon the upheaval of Irish political conditions in the early part of the eighteenth century, these people became the victims of unbearable suppression and violence. Their escape to the New World and thence to the frontier was inspired by a desperate longing for home and freedom of action. Many, being unable to pay for their passage across the Atlantic, bound themselves as indentured servants to the wealthier farmers and business men of the American colonies. As soon as they had served their contracted period of servitude they pushed toward the frontier to establish their own homes. The few who were able to pay their own way and begin life in the colonies as free men were looked upon as members of the gentry.

At the turn of the century there were 24 families, totaling 177 persons, listed in the census of Pocahontas. This was admittedly an incomplete enumeration. However, since there was a constant move westward, and the final Indian raid in 1780 had caused a minor retreat, the figures may be accepted as being approximately correct. The families listed as residing within confines of Pocahontas at that time were those of: Isaac Moore, Moses Moore, Peter Lightner, Henry Harper, John Moore, Felix Grimes, Samuel Waugh, James Waugh, Aaron Moore, William Moore, Robert Moore, Timothy McCarty, Robert Gay, Jeremiah Friel, Jacob Warwick, Andrew Gwin, Sampson Mathews, Josiah Brown, John Sharp, William Sharp, William Poage, John Baxter, Levi Moore, and John Bradshaw.

Thus far life on the Greenbrier had been of the simplest sort. In many ways it was little above the scale of the Indians'. Money was practically non-existant. The settlers traded furs, meat, and ginseng for the farm implements, salt, and other commodities which they could obtain only by making the long trip to Staunton or some other Eastern center. Farms ranged in size from a few hundred acres to tracts of 1,000 to 2,000 acres known as "plantations". Even these were largely forest holdings. Hired help or slaves were luxuries which only the wealthy minority could afford. It was useless to clear more than the owner could care for with the help of his wife and older children. He depended on his neighbors for assistance in clearing a new field or the construction of a house or barn. Labor was a commodity which the pioneer traded for the things he needed.

Horses were a luxury which few men could afford in the face of constant theft and slaughter by Indians. The owner of a cow was a fortunate man indeed. The added manpower of a large family was a valuable asset. In the census of 1800 are listed families with 13 children. The average of all those enumerated was seven children per family. However, death trod constantly upon their heels. Medical attention was limited to the application of herbs and mystical charms by a member of the family or a neighboring "physician." Superstition, along with all the little elves and fairies of Ireland, had accompanied the people to their new homes. Contagious diseases swept away whole families. Men trudged home from the Revolution infected with dysentery and all the communicable diseases of the army camps and watched in horror as their wives and children fell victim to mysterious plagues against which they had no resistance.

The tremendous physical hardships to which the settlers were subjected were a priceless asset to the future of the land for which they struggled. The weak among them soon fell victim to the relentless wilderness or turned back to the shelter of the communities from which they had come. Only those hardy ones who had poured their souls into the land that they and their children might have a home really their own survived. Some have tried to picture them as handsome giants with bulging muscles - a race of gods. They were common people. Their hands were gnarled claws, hard as the roots they grubbed from their fields, and their faces were weathered brown as their harvest. Their strength lives in their children today.

With the nineteenth century began a new era. Until 1800 the inherent self-sufficiency of the people and the scattered locations of their homes had precluded any division of labor which could possibly be avoided. Every man was his own blacksmith, miller, and carpenter. Each farm was a world within itself, essentially independent of any other. However, as the community grew the advantages of specialization became more apparent. Michael Daugherty, who had settled near what is now the W. G. Ruckman property in 1770, built a grist mill on Mill Run. Peter Lightner also set up a water-powered mill in the Huntersville district.

Lightner is notable for being the forerunner of a group which played an important role in the consolidation of the new communities. The German people who began to drift into the county were as stolid and reliable as the Scotch-Irish were adventurous. Also, unlike the pioneers, who were farmers and hunters almost without exception, the Germans had brought from their homeland many of their manual crafts. There were millwrights, cobblers, blacksmiths,

and numerous other craftsmen among them who did much to raise the standard of living on the frontier. Such German names as Lightner, Harper, Yeager, Arbogast, Herold, Halterman, Burr, Siple, Sheets, Casebolt, Shrader, Burner, Sydenstricker, Varner, Hevener, Cackley, Gumm, and Overholt appear prominently in the records of the development of this period.

With this new consolidation came the development of the first towns. Huntersville, first settled by William Sharp, quickly became the center of commercial and social activities in the county. Under the sponsorship of John Bradshaw, who had gained renown among his neighbors as an Indian spy and a witness of Cornwallis' surrender, the settlement became a trading post for the hunters of the Greenbrier area. It was at Bradshaw's home that they traded furs, meat, and ginseng for living necessities brought by peddlers from the east.

John Harness of Staunton was one of the most prominent of these pioneer merchants. Using pack horses he brought cloth, salt, firearms, and household and farming implements over the narrow trails of the Alleghenies. Gradually small businesses were established to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the ever increasing throngs coming to the village to trade. Blacksmith shops were opened to supply the new demand for building hardware and farm tools. Tanneries made possible the local production of leather goods. Such gun smiths as Evick and Nathan Burgess produced rifles which not only aided in the protection of the frontier but survived the rigorous service of the War between the States.

Dunmore, on the site of the early Warwick holdings; Edray, named by Mrs. Eliza Moore for the walled Edrei of Bible fame; Hillsboro, named for Richard

Hill whose spacious home awed the Indians as the "White Man's Castle;" and numerous other communities took form as the residents of the various neighborhoods drew together for companionship and mutual aid.

More and more the people of the Upper Greenbrier came to think of themselves as a united group having common aims and ideals, apart from the communities of Franklin, Beverly and Lewisburg, which were the nearest seats of justice. Their situation was recognized in March, 1821, when the General Assembly of Virginia passed "An Act to provide for the formation of a new county out of parts of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph." The bill defined the boundaries of the new county giving it an approximate area of 760 square miles. A change in the southern boundary in 1824 increased its area to the present 904 square miles. Two names, Allegheny and Pocahontas, had been selected for this and another county which was being formed east of the mountains. Through a clerical error the names were reversed, thus the county lying atop the Alleghenies received the name of the historical Indian princess.

Improved roads and transportation fostered by the newly formed county government facilitated the entry of still more settlers. In addition to the Scotch-Irish, English and German groups, which were still growing, new throngs of Irish, French and Dutch migrated into the county. The last named were a group of the 300 who had left the Netherlands in protest at the formation of the Dutch Reform Church. About 100 of the people under the leadership of the Rev. William Schimmerhorn purchased a tract on the Williams River from Paul McNeel, in 1840. This community, known as the Dutch Bottom Settlement, was poorly prepared for the laborious farm life of the untamed country. Accustomed to the security of the Dutch cities the people soon became discouraged.

During the winter of 1858 the company disbanded. Most of the people either returned to the East or went on to the new frontier. A few families remained to share the future of Pocahontas. Prominent among these were the Stultings, grandparents of Pearl Buck, who settled near the English settlement of Hillsboro, and the Van Reenans, whose progeny live in Edray District today.

The westward movement lured many of the county's residents to new lands. Some went to Ohio and Indiana. So many McNeels, Beards, Callisons, Poages, Hills, Gays, Bridgers and Clunens from the Little Levels vicinity live in one Missouri county that it is often called "Little Virginia." During the years from 1840 to 1860 the exodus so nearly equalled influx of new settlers that the population increased only 1,036 persons over the total of 2,922 listed in 1840.

Those who remained in the Greenbrier Valley enjoyed the most prosperous era they had ever known. Study of numerous wills probated during this era reveals that the residents had accumulated comparatively large fortunes in livestock and cash. The blue grass pastures of the county produced horses and cattle which found a ready market in the eastern trading centers. Slaves had become a part of the larger establishments. Wealthier members of the community frequently owned as many as eight or ten Negro slaves valued at $5.00 to $1,200 each, depending on the age, physical condition and disposition of the individual. The slaves were well treated. Many were set free in reward for faithful service. A widely known character was "Old Ben," owned by Jacob Warwick, who was given not only his freedom but a small plot of land on which to live for the rest of his days. The rising sympathy for emancipation is revealed in several instances in which heirs of wealthy estates refused to

accept the slaves included in their inheritances.

This boom period crashed to an abrupt ending as the young men of the Pocahontas Rescuers marched out of Huntersville at ten o'clock on the morning of May 18, 1861, on their way to Philippi and the first land battle of the War between the States.

The Rescuers were the pride of the county. The population of the village turned out to kneel with the men as the Reverend Flaherty addressed them and prayed fervently for those who were marching and for the ones left behind. From the journal of William Skeen, lieutenant of the company, we learn that the little army stopped at the Elk River that night and were feted by the William Gibsons, the Hannahs, and I. M. Hogsett. So they progressed, pausing where night overtook them and partaking of the hospitality of the countryside until their advance became known as the "Tin Cup Campaign." The men were provided with tin cups, supplied their own firearms, and lived off the country. The whole campaign, lasting several weeks, cost the county $68.68.

Captain D. A. Stofer commanded the outfit. Under him were Lieutenant Skeen, Sergeant D. W. Slaker, and Musicians Walter Roby and William H. Ervine. The body, which was to engage in the first of the scores of operations which devastated the region, included sons of the pioneering families of the county. Its muster roll named: James Akers, Andrew C. Alderman, Timoleen Angus, Beverly Boon, George Burr, Frederick Burr, Wm. H. Carpenter, Mustoe Corbett, Wm. Cole, George Cash, Montgomery Friel, Peter Grimes, Cyrus Gammon, John Granfield, Mathias Griffin, Amos Helmick, Charles B. Herold, Wm. R. Hogsett, Isaac B. Hanes, Robt. A. Hannah, Joseph Hannah, Wm. Henson, Adam Hamilton, Joseph I. Johnson, Joseph D. Jordan, Amos Lyons, Patric Moriarty,

James H. McLaughlin, Micheal Moore, Sylvester Mitchell, Wm. L. Pyles, John Pyles, John H. Pence, James Swadley, Lewis Smith, Cain H. Sivey, William Slavens, Lantz Seebert, James Shannon, Marti Sharp, Daniel Varner, Michael Whollihan, Patric Whollihan, Levi Waugh, Charles Weaver, and Robert Weaver.

After the company's return from the rout at Philippi it was reorganized as Company I, 25th Virginia Infantry. Added to the roll were: First Lieut. J. Hugh McLaughlin, Daniel Arbogast, William Burr, Peter L. Cleek, Charles Eagon, William Gammon, Patric Moher, J. W. Mathews, Michael Shannon, C. A. Simmons, B. Franklin Shrader, George Ware, Eugene Ware, William Ware, and Benjamin Ware.

As such the group fought at McDowell, Winchester, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Richmond, Slaughter Mountain, Second Manassas, Bristow Station, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Second Winchester, Gettysburg, Mine Run, and Wilderness. In the Wilderness battle the entire 25th was captured. Company I, then reduced to 17 men was taken to Point Lookout, Maryland, and thence was transferred to Elmira, New York. Six more died in the wretched prisons, and but eleven men came home as survivors of Pocahontas' Company I.

Though the entire state suffered tremendously because of its buffer position between the North and the South it is probable that Pocahontas was victimized to a far greater extent than any other part of the battle area. Most lamentable is the fact that only a relatively small part of the actual destruction was caused by the regular troops of the two armies. Through the heart of the county ran the mingling frontiers of feeling. Families who had helped each other build homes in the new country divided bitterly in support of the two causes. Worse yet, many a family was broken within itself, and

the sons went off to join opposing forces.

Countless bands of irregular guerillas terrorized the countryside, looting, burning, and murdering in the name of the forces to which they pledged their doubtful allegiance. January, 1862, was a month of atrocities. A mob took a Negro slave belonging to John W. Warwick from the Huntersville jail and hanged him. The Rev. Henry Arbogast and Eli Buzzard, both harmless civilians, were taken from their homes and shot to death on the way to an alleged "trial" as spies.

Timothy Alderman of Douthard's Creek was taken from his home and killed in the woods near the bridge at Minnehaha Springs by a party of neighbors posing as Confederate soldiers. It was three weeks before a resident of the vicinity "dreamed" of the location of the body and led searchers to where it had been concealed by a heavy snowfall. Alderman, like the other two men, was accused of supplying military information to the Federal troops.

The Fourth Separate Brigade with its headquarters at Weston under a General Roberts was created to beat down the activities of Confederate "bushwhackers" who were terrorizing the Union minority groups in the eastern part of the state. Roberts' troops swept through the section with a ruthlessness equal to that of the mobs against whom they were sent. Families known to have men in the Southern forces were subjected to the most brutal treatment. Several families so treated were found to have other sons performing with distinction in the Union army. This, together with other mistakes resulted in Roberts' removal from command on May 18, 1863, less than two months after the formation of the brigade.

General William Woods Averill took over and dispersed several small

detachments of Confederates and captured some supplies. He continued his forays and did not return to Pocahontas until December, when his half-starved troops burst across the Little Levels in the retreat that culminated in the Battle of Droop Mountain. The plight of the blue-clad troops, long in a hostile and barren country, was pitiful. In one instance a soldier was shot by his officer when he refused to return a piece of bacon to the irate housewife from whom he had stolen it. Another group ate what little food they could find in one home and then devoured the contents of a swill barrel which the owner had hoarded to feed his hogs.

The youthful Averill finally succeeded in getting his little army safe over the icy roads to Beverly. The achievement of driving deep into enemy territory with 2,500 men and tearing up a railroad, destroying 200,000 bushels of grain and other stores was no small accomplishment. Then to escape from encirclement by seven Confederate armies under such men as Lee, Jackson, Fitzhugh, Early, and Echols made Averill the miracle man of the Alleghenies.

Lee had suffered another ignoble defeat amid the Pocahontas mountains two years before, when he was serving as a brigadier general in the Greenbrier Valley. During the Cheat Mountain engagement he had attempted to cross the mountain at night in a surprise raid. The ordinarily cautious general did not reckon with the nearly impenetrable spruce jungle which covered the great barrier at that time. His half-trained soldiers from the cotton and tobacco country became hopelessly bewildered, and the intended coup turned into a disastrous rout as the thoroughly frightened lowlanders dropped their equipment and stampeded like cattle.

Bartow, Duncan's Lane, Millpoint, Top Allegheny, Marlin's Bottom,

Huntersville and other points throughout the county were blasted by gun fire as the war surged back and forth. Peace saw a tattered and desolate country-side in the stead of the prosperous farm country which had flourished a few years before. Huntersville was a blackened skeleton. The roads had been washed by rain and cut by heavy artillery wheels for five years without repair. Here and there they had been blocked by mountainous barricades of trees as each army sought to impede the movement of the other.

Men came back to find their fields overgrown and their livestock long since gone. Resolutely they set to work to rebuild. Many had seen their first mowers, reapers, kerosene lights and other inovations during the campaigns through strange parts of the country. As quickly as they could they secured these things for their own farms. The sickle and the tallow candle dropped into the past.

Peace did not return instantly in the hearts of the people. They had been too much in the midst of the actual fighting, their feelings had been too thoroughly aroused, and they had said things to their neighbors which could not be recalled. The color of a man's trousers was a point of dangerous controversy, and trade in blue woolens for men's suits was worse then unprofitable in lower Pocahontas.

Confederates were indicted on numerous charges including murder. They were deprived of the rights of citizenship because they could not swear that they had not aided or abetted the Confederacy. Captain Stofer of the ill-fated Pocahontas Rescuers took the oath and resumed his law practice. He was indicted for perjury, appealed to the Supreme Court, and the case was dragged along until the rights of southern sympathizers were restored by the new state

government in 1870.

Gradually harmony was restored. Fences were rebuilt. Record crops of hay and corn were produced. As the roads were reopened the freight wagons brought in the products of the newly awakened national industries. Provincialism was weakened and Pocahontas no longer was an outlaw colony; it was part of a growing new state and a stronger, more close-knit nation.

Traveler's Repose, on the Staunton-Parkersburg turnpike, became a busy place as the adventurous pushed toward the western frontier. Louise McNeill's poems of the busy turnpike and its famous tavern have caught the colorful spirit of the day.

JED KANE

"The Gauley mail was overdue
When Jed who was to drive it through
Cheat Mountain Pass to Staunton Run
Got special word from Washington
In which a postal clerk inquired
Why Mr. Kane who had been hired
To drive the course at post haste rate
Was not in yet, though three months late.

"And now on a high-glaze marble wall
In the postal building Jed Kane's scrawl
Hangs framed in silver: "Respected Sir,
You ask the reason and this be her-
If the gable end blew out of hell
Straight into the drifts of a snow that fell
Last fall on the ram's horn point of Cheat
It would take till Easter for brimstone heat
To melt a horsepath, So I remain
Your obdt. svt. Jedson Kane."

THE INN

"At dusk the rider reined his horse,
The mail man left his post haste course,
A traveler who walked alone
Scraped muddy boots upon a stone,
The herder drove his steers to pen
And four besplattered, glib-tongued men
Who had not met, met now before
The tavern's heavy timbered door.

"The fire roared loud as songs were sung.
The cider keg popped out its bung
And flowed along the stream of wit;
Wild pheasant roasted on the spit;
And till the crossroads streak with dawn
And four strange men must travel on,
A long-jawed goffer, Henry Clay,
A dark outlander, "French" Crozet,
Windy Williams who drove for hire
And Jed who carried the Staunton mails
Warmed their shins by the landlord's fire,
Swigged their cider and swapped their tales."

Despite the improved transportation and better contact with the outer country Pocahontas has changed little in its population characteristics since 1860. The people are nearly all descendents of the original, Nordic races who first settled. Industry and exploitation of natural resources have been limited by the lack of heavy transport. Consequently their attendant conglomeration of cheap labor and mixed races did not penetrate the county's mountain barriers.

The visitor is impressed with the serenity of Pocahontas and its people. They have accepted such new comforts of the technological age as they liked and have retained those of the old days if they better suited the purpose. They make their crops, raise good livestock, and live in comfortable, unpretentious homes. Farming, through application of modern procedure learned in Four H work and agricultural schools, has grown beyond the conception of the pioneer farmer. Well educated business and professional men and women have replaced their untutored forebears. Many have gone out to make such county names as McClintic, Gatewood, Herold, and countless others prominent in the governmental and business affairs of the state.